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## Single $\$2^{\underline{00}}$

#### THIS WEEK

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- 4 The Mulkey Theatre and local kids will be seen in an upcoming music video.
- 5 Clarendon Masons install new officers.
- 8 Federal cuts may impact Texas' kids mental health.
- All this and much more as The Enterprise reports in this week's amazing edition!

#### **Clarendon sets July** sales tax record

The City of Clarendon set another monthly record for sales tax revenue when Texas Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock distributed July allocations last week.

Clarendon brought in \$45,167.47 for the month, which was 10.27 percent higher than the same period one year ago. The allocation broke the previous local July record of \$40,989 set in 2021. Clarendon's calendar year-to-date revenue is now \$317,333.73, an increase of 8.22 percent compared to this time last year.

The city has set monthly records for sales tax revenue in five of the first seven months for 2025. Annual sales tax revenues have grown year over year since 2018.

Howardwick was up 10.42 percent this month with an allocation of \$1,186.02 and is up 26.99 percent for the year-to-date at \$10,793,64.

Hedley dipped 32.15 percent with an allocation of \$804.65, but the city's year-to-date figure remains up 14.05 percent at \$9,243,37.

Statewide, Hancock sent \$1.2 billion in local sales tax allocations for July, 4.5 percent more than in July 2024.

These allocations are based on sales made in May by businesses that report tax monthly.

#### Hedley host ball **camp July 28-29**

Hedley ISD is excited to announce its upcoming summer basketball camp for all incoming 1st through 8th grade students. The camp will take place on July 28 and 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day in the Hedley school gym.

The cost of the camp is \$25 per participant, which includes a camp t-shirt. Students will have the opportunity to work on basketball fundamentals, improve their skills, and have fun in a supportive and engaging environment led by Coach Allen Grant and Coach Jonathan Hood.

In an effort to make the camp accessible to all students, transportation to and from the school is being arranged for families who are unable to bring their children. Additionally, a scholarship fund is available for students who wish to attend but may need financial assistance. Parents are encouraged to reach out directly to Coach Grant if they would like to request support.

"We want every student who's interested to have the opportunity to participate," said Coach Grant. "This camp is a great way for kids to stay active, build confidence, and connect with their teammates and school community."

The registration link can be found at www.hedleyisd.net, and families are encouraged to sign up early.



## H'wick hosting seventh Hoedown Saturday

The seventh annual Howardwick Hoedown will be held Saturday, July 19, in at 4 p.m. Tickets for that are already sold chances for \$20. McMorries Memorial Park with fun for the out, according to Howardwick City Secretary entire family.

and continue until it runs out, and dancing and music will continue throughout the day. Lunch wiches, potato salad, a drink, and a cupcake.

A Challenger 200EX will be raffled off Food will be served starting at 11 a.m. however, will offer many chances to win and will also be going on all day for those present.

"I'm going to have to be drawing winners will be \$10 per person – pulled pork sand- about 11 times per hour to give all these away," Tickets for the live raffle are \$1 each or 25

Sandy Lynn Childress. A live on-site raffle, cash payout will be held at 9 a.m. for golf carts, more. ATVs, and UTVs and the entire route will be in the City of Howardwick.

> The fourth annual putting contest will also have a cash payout, and sign-ups will continue until 1 p.m.

A slip-n-slide and bounce house will be available for kids, and vendor booths will fea-A Hoedown Showdown Poker Run with a ture ice cream, cotton candy, artisan wares, and

> Those attending the Hoedown should plan to bring their own seating and their own umbrellas or other shading if they desire.

Hoedown activities will wind down at 4

p.m.



#### Remembering Tommy Hill

The Clarendon City Council issued a proclamation honoring the life of the late Alderman Tommy Hill during its meeting last week. Shown here are Laverne Pinion, Debra Hill, Courtney D'Costa, Cydney D'Costa, Brenda Hill, Mayor Jacob Fangman, Lauren Graves, and Danny Hill.

## City council considers candidates for vacancy

in filling the seat of the late Tommy D'Costa. Hill during their regular meeting last Thursday, July 10.

Brian Barboza said 11 people had the council to think about Hill annual report of Clarendon Housexpressed an interest in the position. Those were Bob Weiss, Tonya Lindsey, Ashleigh Sherel, Christopher Topliff, Pharabie Shadle, former alderman Eulaine McIntosh, Cydney D'Costa, Ashlee Wortham, Jimmie Adams, Ralph Graves, and Christopher Woodcook.

Barboza said he thought some of those may have decided they were not interested in the position, but eight did attend and were invited

The Clarendon City Council Weiss, McIntosh, Graves, Lind- July 15. heard from eight citizens interested sey, Topliff, Adams, Shadle, and

opening of the meeting, Howard-Last week, City Administrator wick Mayor Johnny Floyd urged week, the council accepted the still enjoying chair and using other when considering his replacement ing Authority Executive Director Ashlee Estlack, Tom Thompson, to appoint someone with vision and Tammy Christopher and approved also addressed the council and report. spoke in favor of former alderman McIntosh.

cil was scheduled to meet in closed session to appoint someone to the

prise and ClarendonLive.com for some aldermen felt it was still a rev-

ambition for the city. Sara SoRelle the city's quarterly investment

A proposal for a new vending contract for the Clarendon Aquatic Aldermen wanted to take their Center was turned down with aldertime to review the qualifications and men voting instead to do away with letters of those interested. The counthe vending machines and sell concessions directly.

The council also discussed Hill's seat as the Enterprise was the five dollar entrance fee for the to address the council. Those were going to press Tuesday evening, aquatic center for people who are review Covey's evaluation.

not swimming. The fee has been See Facebook.com/TheEnter- a source of a few complaints, but In public comments at the updates on action taken Tuesday. enue stream for the aquatic center In other city business last and that those not swimming are facilities at the center. Aldermen and Chelsi Shadle voted to leave the charge unchanged with Alderman Brittney Wolfe voting no.

The council was scheduled to conduct the annual evaluation of City Secretary Machiel Covey, but with three of four current aldermen having been in office for only two months, the council voted to delegate Covey's evaluation to the city administrator. The council will then

## **CCISD** names interim **Board may select**

# finalist next week

Clarendon CISD Trustees approved hiring Rick Teran as interim school superintendent during their regular meeting last Monday, July 7, and could name their pick for the next fulltime superintendent as early as next week.

Teran has 42 years of experience in education and served as superintendent in Childress for eight years before retiring five years ago.

He and his wife of 31 years currently live Bushland, and the couple has three kids and five grandchildren with one on the



The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) is helping CCISD search for a new superintendent after Jarod Bellar retired from the position this month and took a new job in Kansas. TASB headhunter Rich Howard recruited Teron to fill in temporarily after the school's first interim pick, Bryan Davis, was unable to take the position due to contractual obligations, Teran said.

Trustees narrowed their pool of superintendent applicants to three during last week's meeting and began interviews with those finalists this week in called meetings on Monday and Tuesday. They will continue interviews next week and could announce a finalist either July 22 or 23, Teran said.

In keeping with the way most Texas school districts operate, Clarendon CISD is not releasing the names of the three finalists. Once they name a lone finalist, there will be a 21-day waiting period before that person can be officially hired by the district.

Teran said a new superintendent could be on the job in Clarendon as early as September 1.

In other school business last week, trustees voted 6-1 to Opt-Out of the Homeschool participation in all UIL activities. Those voting in favor were Taylor Shelton, Jeff Robertson, Donny Howard, Robin Ellis, Wayne Hardin, and Chrisi Tucek, and Mike Word opposed the motion. The vote prohibits homeschoolers living within the district from participating in UIL academics and athletics for CCISD.

The board also met in closed session for about 30 minutes before returning to open session to acknowledge the resignation of Lisa Grahn. The board also offered oneyear contracts to Terri Luna, Aimee Lyles, Carrie Anne Torres, April Carroll, Izaiah Kelley, Laura Martinez, Aaron Smith, and Trevor Leeper.

Also during the school board's regular June meeting, the trutees met in closed session for about 45 minutes before returning to open session and acknowledging the resignations of Alix Snure and Kalen Grahn and offering one-year contracts of employment to Roy Davis and Stan Caffey.



## Sidewalk progress

Downtown revitalization work focused on the west side of the 200 block of Kearney Street this week in front of Ramlin' Ranch Boutique and the former Greene Dry Goods building. Workers were expected to concrete there this week. The city council was scheduled to review bids for the next round of revitalization in the 300 block during a called session Tuesday night.

## It's okay to criticize your government

This week has been heart-wrenching as we have all watched fellow Texans suffer loss and heartbreak from the flooding in Kerrville and in other parts of the state. In these challenging times, we are reminded just how tough, resilient, and full of love Texans are, and it's that Texas Spirit that will carry our state through this tragedy.

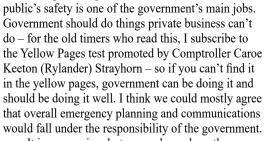
Last week, I wrote an article highlighting the failures of our legislature in passing a bill that would have established a council to improve emergency communications and provide grants for local governments to purchase things such as emergency sirens. That story drove the narrative this week around emergency warning sirens, and eventually, all the talk led to the governor adding this issue to the Special Session, which starts July 21st.

And boy, did I get some hate from people online for pointing this out. They called me "ghoul," and another fellow said it was

"sick stuff" for "trashing" the Kerrville legislator for voting no on the bill.

Here's what I have to say about this. It's okay to criticize your government it doesn't have feelings.

I'm a conservative, and I believe there is a slim and proper role of government, and providing for the



guest

commentary

by suzanne bellsnyder

It is concerning, but somewhere along the way, we have conflated the personalities of our elected officials with their job performance. If it's a political foe, we applaud, and if a political enemy, we criticize. I see a growing movement among the people on my side of the aisle who spend their energy apologizing for, rather than holding our team accountable for, their actions, even when it's obvious we must do better.

Yes, there was a 100 year flood in Kerr County, and Mother Nature's wrath is unavoidable. As a farmer's daughter, I know this – we've lost many a perfect crop in a 10-minute hailstorm. But if you subscribe to the idea that the government's job is to protect its citizens, you must also acknowledge that the massive loss of life was the result of a massive failure of gov-

I've heard the excuse that "there was nothing we could do," and then, of course, the passive-aggressive assigning of blame. What I'm still waiting for is someone in our government to say, boldly, "We failed the mission. We could have done more. And we will do better". If I've missed that, let me know.

In a few weeks, the special session will convene Austin, and it's already been promised that we will have an investigative process to review what happened during the flooding. It's an election year in 2026, they know the voters are watching, and they plan to put on a show for us.

We have a saying out West, and I fear that we will witness a process which we'd say is "all hat and no cattle." The bill I mentioned earlier, HB 13, was introduced by Panhandle Rep. Ken King and resulted from the legislative investigative committee's follow-up to the Panhandle wildfires. It was a solution to problems identified during the after-action review of that disaster. For political reasons, it got a no vote from Wes Virdell, the legislator whose community was hit hardest by the flooding, and it died in the Texas Senate. Why didn't we already fix what we already knew was broken? This was a no-brainer.

And I also fear the blame game will continue. What you may not know is that there is an ongoing attack from Austin aimed at local governments over property taxes and local control - and indeed, there are already undertones of that playing out here with this disaster, if you listen closely. It's the narrative Austin knows best vs locally elected government. The state has failed to reform our tax system, opting instead for short-term relief, which helps temporarily and also helps them win elections, but then blames local communities for raising taxes. Your Local property and sales tax pay for things like schools, roads, fire departments, police, and parks. And you have a say in how those rates are set and how those funds are spent.

A ban on "taxpayer-funded lobbying" is even on the Special session list. When you take away the ability for local governments to advocate for their citizens and against Austin's insatiable need for control, the result will be even larger gaps in the system than what we are now experiencing. And the most frightening thing is that if we can't generate taxes locally at the city and county level, we will be looking to Austin to send us our money. Ask the public schools how that's working out for them.

So when the cameras are on Austin in the coming weeks, remember this. The heroes to emerge from this tragedy are the men and women from across the country who have come together for their neighbors. The heroes are the organizations that have deployed their people and their resources to find and support the families who have been impacted. The heroes are the families who have suffered tragedy or worse, survived but lost loved ones, and will live with the pain of that

Our government leaders are not the heroes. Our government has failed us. They failed those babies. And they will do it again if we don't speak up and demand accountability. And they will do it again if we forget. Don't forget.

Suzanne Bellsnyder is he publisher of the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman and the online Texas Rural Reporter.

## Attend a dance held in your name

Probably the most important social activity for both men and women on the frontier were the dances that were frequently held. As partial compensation for the hardships and privations of frontier life, some recreation was needed, and the dances were well attended. They sometimes lasted all night. In Texas and Oklahoma, these dances seemed to be especially popular.

Invitations were never sent out; word just circulated, and people came from miles around.

Music was usually furnished locally with whatever instruments were available. Adhering to unwritten dress codes, the ladies wore dresses with high necklines made of anything from silk to calico, and the men generally came in a coat with some kind of a tie and had their pants tucked into their high-top boots. Hats and guns had to be checked at the entrance to the dance hall.

Because the male population was much more numerous than the female, the male attendees were given numbers, and the floor manager would call out numbers identifying the men to participate in each dance. In this way participation was distributed equally and potential trouble was avoided. It was

rare that a female sat out any of the dances, and whenever a large number of ladies were present, the dance was truly a

vignettes

special occasion. tales of the old west On one by george u. hubbard occasion in No

Man's Land (now the Oklahoma panhandle), it became known that a family named Dale was moving in from Missouri. The thing that made this family special was that John Dale had nine daughters, and several of them were of dancing age. Excitement spread through the ranks of eligible bachelors as they anticipated the arrival of this family of nine daughters.

"We'll have a dance to celebrate their arrival," they voiced in unison. "And we'll give those daughters a real welcome." Plans were made for the welcoming, and the dance was held on the night of the Dale family's arrival.

Now, another custom with frontier dances was that explicit invitations were never sent out. News of a dance spread naturally, and everyone came who wanted to come. All were welcome

who behaved themselves, and people sometimes came from as far away as thirty or fifty miles. But the Dales did arduous journey.

"Where are they?" the men at the

good for us," one opined.

"We need to give them a real shots. Looking out their window, they saw cowboys riding around the house shooting and yelling like Comanches. The girls were thoroughly frightened, ing, thinking that the riders would go away soon, which they did. A few days later when everyone understood what had really happened and why, the cowboys became nice and friendly, and the Dale family was

not know the frontier customs, and without explicit invitations to the dance, the Dale daughters not only did not attend, they went to bed early to rest from their

"Maybe they think they are too

cowboy welcome," voiced another. The Dales were all sleeping peacefully when suddenly they were awakened by pistol and they cried to their father to make the men leave. Wisely, John Dale did nothmade to feel truly welcome. George U.

Hubbard is an author and former resident

# GREG ABBOTT DEFLECTS QUESTION WITH FOOTBALL ANALOGY... OKAY... I'LL PUT IT ANOTHER WAY WHO FUMBLED? KERRVILLE

## America's most lawless federal agency

By John W. Whitehead

While the U.S. wages war abroad bombing Iran, escalating conflict, and staging a spectacle of power for political gain – a different kind of war is being waged here at home.

This war at home is quieter but no less destructive. The casualties are not in tutional safeguards we rely on are distant deserts or foreign cities. They are our freedoms, our communities, and the Constitution itself.

And the agents of this domestic war? Masked thugs. Unmarked vans. Raids. Roundups.

Detentions without due process. Retaliation against those who dare to question or challenge government authority. People made to disappear into bureaucratic black holes. Fear campaigns targeting immigrant communities and political dissenters alike. Surveillance weaponized to monitor and suppress lawful activity.

Packaged under the guise of national security – as all power grabs tend to be – this government-sanctioned thuggery masquerading as law-and-order is the face of the Trump Administration's so-called war on illegal immigration.

Don't fall for the propaganda that claims we're being overrun by criminals or driven into the poorhouse by undocumented immigrants living off welfare.

The real threat to our way of life comes not from outside invaders, but from within: an unelected, unaccountable enforcement agency operating above the law.

President Trump insists that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is focused on violent criminals, but the facts tell a different story (non-criminal ICE arrests have surged 800% in six months) – and that myth is precisely what enables the erosion of rights for everyone.

By painting enforcement as narrowly targeted, the administration obscures a far broader dragnet that sweeps up legal residents, naturalized citizens, and native-born Americans

What begins with immigrants rarely

According to the Cato Institute, 65 percent of people taken by ICE had no convictions, and 93 percent had no violent convictions at all.

This isn't targeted enforcement it's indiscriminate purging.

What ICE – an agency that increas-

ingly resembles a modern-day Gestapo – is doing to immigrants today, it can and will do to citizens tomorrow: these are the early warning signs of a system already in motion. The machinery is in place. The

being ignored, dismantled, or bypassed When legal residents, naturalized citizens, and native-born Americans are

abuses are ongoing. And the consti-

swept up in ICE's raids, detained without cause, and subjected to treatment that defies every constitutional protection against government overreach, this isn't about immigration.

It's not about danger. It's about power – unchecked and absolute.

This is authoritarianism by design. It reflects a deliberate strategy of fear and domination by ICE agents acting like an occupying army, intent on intimidating the population into submission while the Trump Administration redraws the boundaries of the Constitution for all within America's borders,

citizen and immigrant alike. This is how you dismantle a constitutional republic: not in one dramatic moment, but through the steady erosion of rights, accountability, and rule of law – first for the marginalized, then for everyone.

When constitutional guarantees become conditional and oversight is systematically evaded, all Americans regardless of status – stand vulnerable to a regime that governs by fear rather than freedom.

ICE raids often occur without warrants. Agents frequently detain individuals not charged with any crime. Homes, schools, hospitals, workplaces, and courthouses have all become targets. Agents in plain clothes swarm unsuspecting individuals, arrest them without explanation, and separate families under the pretense of national security. In many cases, masked agents refuse to identify themselves at all - creating a climate of terror where the public cannot distinguish lawful enforcement from lawless abduction.

This is not justice. It is intimidation. And it has become business as usual.

From boots on the ground to bytes in the cloud, ICE's unchecked power reflects a broader shift toward authoritarianism, fueled by high-tech surveillance, public indifference and minimal judicial

oversight. The agency operates a sprawling digital dragnet: facial recognition, license plate readers, cellphone tracking, and partnerships with tech giants like Amazon and Palantir feed massive databases – often without warrants or oversight.

 $These \ same \ tools-hallmarks \ of$ a growing surveillance state – are now being quietly repurposed across other federal agencies, setting the stage for an integrated surveillance-policing regime that threatens the constitutional rights of every American.

This isn't about safety. It's about

These tools aren't just targeting undocumented immigrants - they're laying the digital scaffolding for a future in which everyone is watched, scored, and subject to state suspicion.

Constitutional safeguards are being replaced by digital suspicion.

Trump's shifting stance on industries that rely on migrant labor – one moment threatening crackdowns, the next signaling exemptions for hotels, farms, and construction – reveals what this campaign is really about: not security, but political theater.

It's not about danger; it's about dominance and authoritarian enforce-

And it's not limited to immigrants. It's creeping into every corner of Amer-

When a government can detain its own citizens without due process, punish political dissent, and target individuals for what they believe or how they look, it is no longer governed by law. It is governed by fear.

If we fail to dismantle the ICE model, we normalize it - and risk reproducing it everywhere else.

ICE has become the beta test – perfecting the merger of technology, policing, and executive power that could soon define American governance as a whole.

If we don't act soon, we may find that the Constitution is the next to be detained.

When ICE acts as enforcer, jailer, and judge for the president, those fears are no longer theoretical – they are the daily reality for countless people within U.S. borders.

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute.

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This paper's first duty is to print all the news that is fit to print, honestly and fairly to all, unbiased by any

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may occur in the columns of **The Clarendon Enterprise** will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

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News articles and photos are due by Monday at noon. Advertising and Classifieds are due by five o'clock Monday afternoon. Deadlines may be altered for holidays

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THE CLARENDON News, established June 1, 1878 with which have merged: The Clarendon Traveler, February 1889; The Clarendon Journal, November 1891; The Banner-Stockman, October 1893; The Agitator, February 1899; The Clarendon Times,  $\label{eq:may-loss} \mbox{May 1908; The Donley County Leader}, \mbox{ March 12},$ 1929; The Clarendon Press, May 18, 1972; and The Clarendon Enterprise, March 14, 1996.

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#### July 18 & 19

Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 7:30

#### July 19

Howardwick Hoedown. 11 a.m. at McMorries Memorial Park featuring Food, craft and Vendor Booths, Music, Raffles, Cornhole and more! ClarendonTx.com for info.

#### July 20

Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 2:00

#### July 21, 22, & 23

Community Fellowship Church • Vacation Bible School • 5:30 p.m. -

#### July 25 & 26

Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 7:30

#### July 27

Mulkey Theatre • Superman • 2:00

#### **July 27 - 30** Calvary Baptist Church • Vacation

Bible School • 6:00 p.m. - 8:80 p.m.

#### **August 2 & 3** Jack & Jill Scramble • Clarendon

Country Club • Call 806-874-2166

#### August 7

Clarendon CISD • Returning Students Registration • 2:00 p.m - 5:00

#### August 8 Clarendon CISD • New Students Registration • 9:00 a.m.

August 9

#### **Bronco Booster Tournament**

Clarendon Country Club • Call 806-874-2166

#### August 11 Meet the Teachers • Clarendon CISD

• 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### August 11 Back to School Bash • Clarendon

Elementary • 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

#### August 11 Meet the Teachers • Hedley ISD •

5:00 p.m

#### August 11 Meet the Owls • Hedley ISD • 6:00

#### August 12 Hedley ISD • First Day of School

August 13 Clarendon CISD • First Day of School

#### August 16

Donley County Senior Citizens Center 50th Annniversary Celebration • 4th & Gorst Streets • See ClarendonTX.

#### August 23

Night Scramble • Clarendon Country Club • 806-874-2166



#### **July 21 - 25**

**Donley County Senior Citizens** Mon: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, melon, sugar cookie, iced tea/2% milk.

Tues: Pork chops, black-eved peas, turnip greens, cornbread, sliced peaches, iced tea/2% milk.

Wed: Mushroom steak, baked potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit cup, iced tea/2% milk.

Thurs: Pot roast, gravy, potatoes, carrots, green beans, whole wheat roll, peach cobbler, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: Oven fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, whole wheat roll, fruit crisp, iced tea/2% milk.

#### **Hedley Senior Citizens**

Mon: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread, fruit cobbler, iced tea/2% milk. Tues: Beef soft tacos, cheese, refried beans. Spanish rice. mixed green salad, Mexican brownies, iced tea/2% milk. Wed: Chicken fried steak w/

gravy, homemade potatoes, California mashed mixed vegetable, fruit, whole wheat roll, oatmeal cookie, iced tea/2% milk.

Thurs: Mushroom steak, brown gravy, potato, green beans. whole wheat roll, fruit cup, iced tea/2% milk.

Fri: Bacon cheeseburger on whole wheat bun, onion rings, fruit, chef's choice dessert, iced tea/2% milk



#### In the spotlight

The Mulkey Theatre and three local kids will have a roll in an upcoming music video with footage shot last Saturday. Garre LaGrone is putting the video together for his bluegrass group, The Grass Daddies, and their new song "Old Yeller." The video will include local kids Monroe Newhouse, Kylee Glover, and J.T. Shelton going to see the movie "Old Yeller" in the 1950s. Shown here are LaGrone, Makaylee Frank, Newhouse, Shelton (beside Newhouse), and Glover.

## Texas lawmaker proposes beefing up worker program to ease farm labor shortages

By Berenice Garcia, The Texas Tribune contracts from 10 months to a year; Spanish – was meant to provide a

filed legislation Monday that would revamp a temporary worker program to help ease farm labor shortages largely provoked by the Trump administration's ramped-up immigration raids targeting undocumented workers.

Edinburg, introduced the Bracero Program 2.0 Act on Monday, a bill that makes changes to a temporary visa program for agriculture workers, known as H-2A visas.

The proposal would raise wages for program participants, streamline more than 10,000 portable H-2A Texas Rio Grande Valley. the application process for employers, and launch a regional pilot program that would allow workers to having to reapply for a visa.

"This will provide solutions employers or job openings. desperately needed for hard-working immigrants. With workforce shortages challenging our communities, the Bracero Program 2.0 will bring employed in, plus \$2 per hour. stability and certainty for South ment.

Farmworkers have among those targeted by immigra- current process of matching up with tion enforcement officials since the Trump administration intensified deportation efforts.

Following raids in California documents. last month, farmers reported that between 30 percent to 60 percent of their workers stopped showing up to work amid fears they could be arrested next.

Those fears are also pertinent in Hidalgo County - the majority of which lies in De La Cruz's district - where about 80 percent of workers are undocumented, according to a report by the National Center for Farmworker Health. Only two workers surveyed in the report had an H-2A visa.

the agricultural industry, President Donald Trump expressed support for reforming the H-2A program and announced a plan to streamline the issuance of temporary worker visas.

De La Cruz's bill would create an online portal for agriculture employers to post job openings or file petitions to bring in temporary

Activities for the day include:

Creative Crafts - horse-themed

crafts and activities for all ages;

discovery.

Family Fun Day to be held

at Quarter Horse Museum

19, 2025, for a free day of fun and Live Appearances - Say hello to

Meeting a real American Quarter way to spend the day, there's some-

Horse; Storytime with Storybridge thing for everyone to enjoy.

qualified employers.

It would also launch a six-year same state while their visa lasts.

De La Cruz, a Republican from would be known as a portable H-2A

have 60 days to find another one with a registered agriculture employer or be required to leave the country.

visas are active at any given time. However, the US Secretary of aren't enough registered agriculture have magnified the need for labor.

Laramie Adams, government not eligible for H-2A visas. Texas," De La Cruz said in a state- affairs director for the Texas Farm Bureau, said he supported a more been streamlined application, saying the record," Avila said. H-2A workers is cumbersome.

If a state or federal agency requires more information from an bill contains no such provision. employer, the agencies often mail email, leading to a lengthy back-andforth, according to a report by the US Government Accountability Office.

And employers who need workers at different parts of a season must go through the entire process again.

"The main thing that we advoworkforce, and it's been hard to navigate the current H-2A process to Amid rising concerns within ensure that we have a reliable workforce," Adams said. "At the same time, we have a lot more Texans who are using the program because it's their only avenue to be able to get seasonal agricultural workers."

The bill is named after a temporary labor program between the US and Mexico that ran from 1942 until 1964. The Bracero program – meanworkers; extend H-2A visa worker ing "arm man" or manual laborer in ing."

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US Rep. Monica De La Cruz and expand the program to include legal way to temporarily hire Mexgreenhouses and indoor farms as ican migrant farmworkers along the southern border.

"For decades, the Bracero Propilot program allowing workers to gram created new opportunities for freely move between jobs within the millions and provided critical support for Texas agriculture," De La A worker under this program Cruz said in a statement.

The program ended because of tensions with the farm labor unions, If their job ends, they would which accused agriculture employers of using bracero workers as cheap labor that put US workers at a disadvantage, according to Mayra The law would require that no Avila, a lecturer at the University of

She said labor shortages in the agriculture sector have existed for Homeland Security could further years, but recent immigration arrests change jobs within a state without limit the number of visas if there targeting immigrant farmworkers

But Avila questioned whether All H-2A workers would have changes like those proposed in De to be paid a wage that matches the La Cruz's bill would address the minimum wage of the state they're shortages, noting that the undocumented workers being arrested are

"You have to have a clean

Lawmakers have repeatedly tried to reform the H-2A program Employers have to submit over the years, including one attempt paper applications and supporting in 2021 that would have created a path to legal status for undocumented farmworkers. De La Cruz's

Though it's unclear whether De their requests rather than sending an La Cruz's bill will garner strong support, the legislation signals a desire among Republicans to establish a framework to allow more migrant farmworkers to work in the country legally.

"The reality is that you're getting rid of a lot of farmworker cate for is a strong, legal agriculture laborers, and farm work is very hard work," Avila said.

She said the US relies too heavily on farmworkers and that it would be difficult to fill those jobs with US citizens.

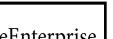
"As a US citizen, you would rather get a job at McDonald's with air conditioning, or a Walmart with air conditioning, than go work in the fields where, in Texas, it's 90 degrees," she said. "Why would you do this to yourself? It's back-break-



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#### New officers

Clarendon Lodge #700 installed officers for the 2025-2025 masonic year Monday night during a stated meeting. Shown here are Senior Deacon John Tom Morrow, Senior Warden Jim Owens, Worshipful Master Corey Blais, Junior Warden and District Deputy Grand Master Chris Wilson, Tiler Jarrod McDaniel, Secretary Russell Estlack, and Treasurer Roger Estlack.

## **Production outlook optimistic** for Texas cotton amid low prices

may stymie positive outcomes for pretty weak." growers.

A&M AgriLife Extension Ser- national cotton acreage would be expecting the planted acres to drop vice economist in the Texas A&M 10.1 million acres, down 10 per-Department of Agricultural Eco- cent compared to last year. Cotton nomics, said growing conditions are acres in Texas, the nation's leading come a lot tighter, which is fundamuch better than in recent years due producer, were expected to be down to drought, but prices are low and over 4 percent – 5.7 million acres could decline further.

In 2022, Texas cotton growers experienced widespread crop losses, Robinson said. Two out of three acres planted with cotton were abandoned due to unrelenting drought.

Subsequent years produced below-average results for growers, he said. In 2023 and 2024, winter and springtime rains provided arid weather set in. High temperatures and little to no rain led to lower yields in dryland and irrigated fields, while late-season rains delayed harquality.

"Most cotton growers across should provide that kind of opti- market.

Production expectations are mism, but unfortunately, the other good for Texas cotton, but low prices important profit factor - prices - are cotton market has changed the

John Robinson, Ph.D., Texas Department of Agriculture estimated compared to 5.95 million acres in

Robinson said low prices, coupled with wet weather and delayed plantings in the Mississippi Delta highly weather-dependent from region, likely factored into the decline. The lower acre estimates did not result in a price boost at market.

Before the report was released, there were some expectations that decent planting conditions before cotton plantings could be closer to 9 million acres. Cotton prices have irrigated acres in the northern half taken a long slide from 80-85 cents per pound since March 2024 and settled below 70 cents per pound since vests in some areas and hurt lint May. December futures were trading cally begin in August, with the Texas at 67.8 cents per pound on July 7.

Robinson said the acreage esti-Texas have taken a punch in the gut mate, coupled with higher-than-exthe last few years and are looking pected ending stockpiles of cotton ture, but there is a lot of uncertainty," for that season to make up for it," and speculative commodity selling, he said. "Conditions around the state continue to factor into a weaker

"Nothing bullish about the speculative short position of those A June 30 report by the U.S. traders who expect the price to go lower still," he said. "People were further than they did, which would have made the ending stocks outmentally supportive of better prices. But the reverse happened."

> Robinson said growers are hoping above-average yields can compensate for lower prices.

> Crop productivity will be now until harvesting begins. Some cotton acres have received too much moisture in recent weeks and need sun and warmer temperatures to accumulate heat units and progress. Texas dryland cotton acres and most of the state will need timely rains in July and August.

> Harvests in South Texas typi-High Plains maturing into November and harvests lasting into January.

"It's good that we have moishe said. "The potential for good production is there; now we just need some conditions to align."

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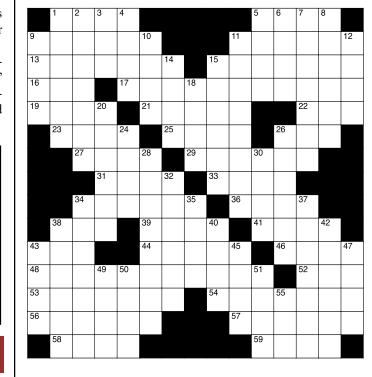
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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

1. Resorts

5. One point south of southwest 9. Musical performances

11. Matched

13. Four-footed animal part

15. Express severe disapproval of 41. Thrust a knife into

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily 21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

23. Lump in yarn 25. Too

27. Afflicts

26. Foot (Latin)

29. Smoothed 31. Mind (Greek) 33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

38. Ocean

39. Electronic point of sale

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.) 48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

56. Caps

57. Repents

58. Brown and Wallace are two

59. Moved quickly

#### **CLUES DOWN**

1. Goes bad

2. Yard structure

3. They

4. Marine invertebrate

5. European river

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in Australia

10. Liquid body substances

11. Particular to a given individual 43. Negligible amount 12. Brave or noble act

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

18. Elected officials

20. Type of "pig" 24. Drop of viscous substance 26. Monetary unit of Spain

28. Guarantees 30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish 38. Appeared

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Took off

45. Posts in a Greek temple

47. Witnesses

49. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA

50. Places to park 51. Guns

55. Dance to pop music



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#### COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

12148 FM 2162 • 874-0963 PASTOR: LARRY CAPRANICA SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M. IN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED. COMMUNITY KIDZ 5:30 P.M. WED. ADULT BIBLE STUDY: 6 P.M.

#### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 120 E. THIRD ST. • PASTOR: DR. KEN MCINTOSH SUNDAY SERVICE: 5 P.M.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD 4TH ST. & HWY. 70 SOUTH • PASTOR: JASON HOUSTON SUN. SCHOOL: 9:30 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:40 A.M.

#### WED. BIBLE STUDY: 6:30 P.M. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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#### **CLARENDON METHODIST CHURCH** 420 S. JEFFERSON • 874-3667 • BRO. RYAN QUIST SUN. SCHOOL: 9:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M. SUN. YOUTH: 6:00 P.M. • WED. BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.

JESUS NAME APOSTOLIC CHURCH 720 E. MONTGOMERY • REV. 874-2078 REV CALVIN BURROW SUN. SERVICES: 3 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

#### SATURDAY: 6 P.M. • SUNDAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: 9:30 A.M. SUN.: 10:30 A.M. • SUN. LIFE GROUP: 4:30 P.M. WED .: 6:30 P.M. **CHRIST'S KIDS OUTREACH MINISTRY:**

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12120 US 287 (JUST WEST OF CLARENDON) • 874-5020 Public Meeting & Watchtower Study: Sun. 10 a.m.

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#### WED.: 7 P.M. (WEATHER PERMITTING) **TRUE CHURCH OF GOD & CHRIST** 301 N. JEFFERSON • ST. PASTOR: JEFF RILES SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11:15 A.M.

WED.: 7 P.M. THE GATHERING

## 623 W. FOURTH • PHYLLIS COCKERHAM SUNDAY: 10 A.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

**HEDLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST** 110 E. SECOND ST. • MINISTER: STEWART MESSER SUN. BIBLE CLASS: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M. SUN EVENING: 6 PM • WED : 7:30 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 200 N. MAIN ST. • PASTOR: STAN COSBY SUN. SERVICE: 11:00 A.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 210 N. MAIN ST. • 856-5980 • PASTOR: BRUCE HOWARD SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN.: 11 A.M. & 6 P.M. WED.: 7 P.M.

## HOWARDWICK

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 235 RICK HUSBAND BLVD. • 874-3326 • REV. JIM FOX SUN. SCHOOL: 8:45 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 10:00 A.M. SUN. EVENING: 5 P.M. • WED.: 6 P.M.

#### MARTIN **MARTIN BAPTIST CHURCH**

US 287 W SUN. SCHOOL: 10 A.M. • SUN. SERVICE: 11 A.M. SUN. EVENING: 6 P.M. • WED.: 7 P.M.

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## Unprocessed red meat has no notable effect on obesity, diseases

A Texas Tech researchers' rigorous analysis of available data challenges longstanding public health suming unprocessed beef.

Animal-sourced foods, such as red meat, are often assumed to be associated with obesity risk. However, Texas Tech University researchers conducted a comprehensive cholesterol and triglycerides. analysis of available research about finding no significant effect of such intake on weight gain or related metabolic issues. This opens a path for consumers to make informed decisions about the role of unprocessed beef in healthy lifestyles.

The study challenges widespread health narratives by using rigorous, controlled studies rather than relying on associations which cannot conclusively determine if red meat causes obesity.

relationship of red meat with obesity or weight gain can help people decide whether or not to include or meat intake on obesity. avoid red meat in their diets.

The researchers made their data analysis public, encouraging others to review and verify results. This can lead to further studies to refine and improve dietary recommendations grounded in high-quality evidence.

Obesity affects 40 percent of adults in the U.S. and elevates the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. Nutrition scientists and health professionals increasingly aim to understand how specific nutrients, foods and dietary and conclusions. patterns may contribute to obesity risk. Animal-sourced foods, such as red meat, are often called into question as part of this public health dialogue.

Texas Tech University researchers recently aimed to provide more understanding into whether red meat is linked with obesity risk and related

the prestigious journal "Obesity." found no significant effect of unproassumptions about the risks of con-cessed red meat consumption on weight gain, obesity or related metabolic conditions in adults - including body mass index (BMI), percent body fat, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein

"Beef contains high-quality the relationship between unpro- protein and other essential nutrients cessed red meat intake and obesity, and people enjoy this key source of nourishment – yet they're often discouraged to consume red meat based on recommendations primarily driven by observational evidence," noted the lead researcher, Nikhil V. Dhurandhar, Helen Devitt Jones Endowed Chair, Paul W. Horn Distinguished Professor, chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences and associate dean for innovation for the College of Health & Human Accurate information about the fully review the totality of causative evidence, which shows no protective or adverse effect of unprocessed red

> "As such, while unprocessed red meat consumption has declined in the U.S., the prevalence of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease has skyrocketed – which makes a poor case for the role of beef in promoting the obesity epidemic."

Dhurandhar explains the problem with previous related studies is they are based primarily on observational data, which often rely on self-reported dietary and lifestyle recall information that can be inaccurate and confound study results

Instead, the researchers used rigorous research methods by conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis of 19 human clinical trials, including parallel-arm randomized controlled trials and randomized crossover trials. They only focused on studies that determined

conditions. Their study, published in cessed red meat to participants rather than studies that used self-reported

> These controlled interventions and methodological approaches reduced potential bias and directly assessed effects of specific dietary interventions on health outcomes, guided by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) reporting guidelines. The result is the most comprehensive evaluation of red meat intake and obesity to date, according to Dhurandhar.

> In addition, to promote transparency, the team has publicly shared codes, calculations and data utilized in the analysis through an interactive dashboard. Scientists are encouraged to access and review the data as they consider designing similar studies in

The authors believe it's import-Sciences. "Our study is the first to ant for scientists to build upon this research for improved public health recommendations.

> "Protein-rich foods, such as beef, may improve satiety and fullness, which can help support lifestyle and dietary behaviors that promote weight loss and healthy weight maintenance," Dhurandhar added. "However, the stigma surrounding unprocessed red meat's role in obesity may keep many from consuming red meat, thus missing out on benefits such as satiety, which may be important for weight loss and management. This study offers a complete view of the research, so clinicians and consumers can make informed decisions about the role of unprocessed beef in healthy lifestyles."

This research was funded by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff and the Texas Beef Council (TBC). Neither NCBA nor TBC were involved in the study design, data collection and analysis the effect of direct feeding of unpro- or publication of the findings.





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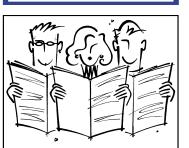


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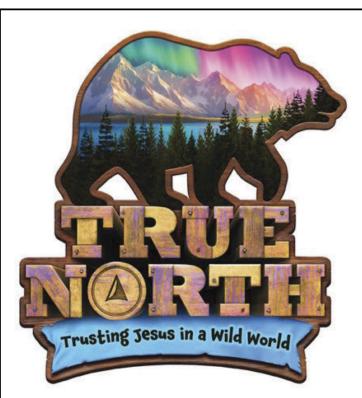
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The Clarendon Lions Club held its regular Tuesday noon meeting July 15, 2025, with Boss Lion Brian Barboza in command.

We had ten Lions present and four attending virtually. Our guest was Bill Word, who presented our

Bill's presentation was about the international travel associated with his career. Bill enjoyed learning about the different cultures, especially moving to London and learning how to drive on the left hand side of the road among many other things about British life. Another adjustment was the spelling of words and the different meaning of words, for example, a car hood is a bonnet, gasoline is called petrol and a cookie is a biscuit. Regional accents were another big adjustment.

A promotion caused him to leave London for South Africa, where his international experience intensified with the size and geographic and cultural diversity of South Africia. Travel in any direction meant you could experience a completely different environment at each location.

Bill next moved to Singapore where he found a nation more cosmopolitan than Dallas, and an extremely pro-business government. He found the island government to be very forward-thinking in terms of taking care of business and taking care of people.

Time kept Bill from telling us more about his career travels, but we hope to have him back soon to tell us more about the different places he has seen and lived.

There being no further business, we adjourned to spread Lionism and good cheer throughout our fair county.



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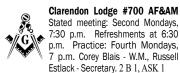
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#### **MEETINGS**



Clarendon Lions Club Regular meeting each Tuesday at noon. Brian Barboza, Boss Lion. Roger Estlack, Secretary



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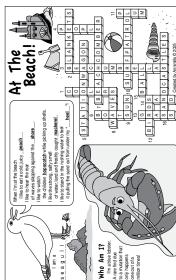
Clarendon Chamber of Commerce Regular Board of Directors meeting third Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Clarendon Visitor Center.

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At The Beach! hopscotch mackerel peach heel When I'm at the beach

shore What kind of bird am I? I like to search and swoop at the :beach. Can you fill in my poem with the missing words?

I am a

<u>e</u> <u>a</u> \_ <u>u</u>

I like to watch the children

while picking up shells.

of waves slapping against the

I like the strong, salty smell

of water, land and freshly caught

I like to eat a cold, juicy

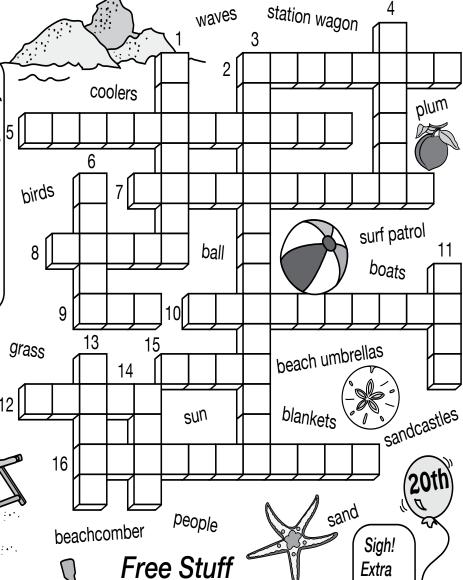
I like to hear the roar

I like to stand in the rushing water to feel

it pulling the sand out from under my "

#### Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:

- 1. keep drinks cool and sandwiches safe from seagulls
- 2. large cloths to lay on; cover the hot sand
- 3. open and close, protect us from the sun's rays
- 4. beachgoers, fans of the sand and surf
- 5. car with lots of space for boogie boards and beach chairs
- 6. sail, power and fishing; allow for travel on water
- 7. someone who searches the sandy beaches for something valuable 8. these crash against the beach; perfect for surfing
- 9. hot, yellow orb in sky; use lotion to protect from being burned 10. travel up and down the beach to protect; lifeguards, U.S. Coast Guard
- 11. fruit growing along the northeastern coast; used in jams or jellies
- 12. pelicans, sandpipers, gulls
- 13. tough plant with long, thin, narrow leaves
- 14. countless grains make up beach; gets into every nook and cranny
- 15. light, brightly colored, inflated, round plastic toy
- 16. buildings of sand and water; moat; seashell windows and doors



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keep reading and visiting their library:

## Mental health programs could bear the brunt of cuts to Texas schools

By Stephen Simpson, The Texas the federal Bipartisan Safer Com-

As Texas schools face at least \$600 million in federal funding cuts, multiple mental health programs, particularly those implemented in response to the pandemic and mass shootings, are at risk of losing fund-

School programs focused on chronic absenteeism, mental wellness and crisis services that were created in response to the Uvalde school shooting, as well as social workers and counselors, could all be on the chopping block.

Texas schools rely heavily on federal funding to support mental health programs. Data shows that two federal programs that are at risk of being cut or strictly regulated account for 86% of the school mental health funding for more than 2,500 campuses statewide, according to Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

Bracing also for the impending expiration of COVID-19 relief funding, school districts and advocacy groups this legislative session had pushed for more money through a dedicated funding source for school mental health, but lawmakers did not approve it.

Currently, such funding is combined with school safety in the so-called school safety allotment in the state school funding formula, and school districts tend to prioritize the allotment on school security.

"I don't want to get into a situation where I am asking, do I hire a police officer or do I hire a counselor? I want them both," said Adrian Johnson, superintendent for the Hearne school district.

The funding cuts and lack of progress on getting a statewide dedicated funding stream for mental health comes at a time when student mental health is worsening. The special legislative session starts July 21, but Gov. Greg Abbott has not assigned school mental health as a directive to lawmakers.

Created in response to Uvalde,

for Student Supports and the Stron- mental health this year. ger Connections Grant Program. The former implements mental that ended in June, Texas lawmakhealth training and support in 60 high-needs districts and the latter ing bill that adds \$8.5 billion to the helps 98 public school districts with state's public school system. Howcase management tools that iden- ever, most of it has been earmarked tify struggling students, as well as for teacher pay; with roughly \$250 mental health personnel.

Safer Communities Act is losing port staff are not necessarily included over \$1 billion spread across the in the pay raise. country. Funds that were supposed to last until 2027 are expected to dry reported that sustainable funding for up by the end of this year.

addressed in schools.

According to an analysis from the Learning Policy Institute, the translate to more dollars for mental freezing of five other federal pro- health. But without any legislation grams that support public schools are currently earmarking those dollars, expected to result in the withholding that is not a guarantee," Rebecca of approximately \$600 million from Fowler, the director of public policy Texas, more than 16.1% of the state's federal K-12 funding.

These funds have been used for a variety of services such as English but also after school programs and summer programs focused on mental

facing cuts in the federal spending enough students. bill passed earlier this month, and both provide millions of dollars each school safety allotment for mental year to school districts and local mental health authorities, enabling them to hire and retain mental health providers, offer preventive mental health screenings, and support stu- John Bryant, D-Dallas, attempted dents with disabilities using special-

Separately, COVID-19 funds are set to expire this year or already funding streams makes it hard to ran out, forcing some smaller schools to lay off staff or find alternative ways to keep the social work- young people," said Kate Murphy, ers and counselors hired during the director of child protection policy for pandemic.

munities Act helps fund two grant come as Texas lawmakers missed programs in Texas, the Texas Center opportunities to properly fund school

During the legislative session ers agreed on a robust school fundmillion being set aside for school Almost three years later, the support staff and mental health sup-

Over 70% of the schools school-based mental health staff and The cut to the Bipartisan Safer professional school counselors was Communities Act is just one in a the main barrier to having adequate series of proposed changes to fed- resources to address student mental eral funding for public education health needs, according to a survey that will impact how mental health is of 2,690 schools by the Mental Health America of Greater Houston.

"We are hopeful that this will and government affairs at Mental Health America of Greater Houston, said about the new school funding.

In 2023, 36 Texas health and language instruction and literacy, wellness organizations wrote to the Texas Legislature, urging the creation and funding of a separate "student mental health allotment" Medicaid and CHIP are also because programs were not reaching

> Only 13% of schools used the health supports, according to the Mental Health America of Greater Houston report.

> House Bill 1257 by Rep. to secure dedicated mental health funds, but it did not pass this year.

> "Uncertainty around different navigate these conversations about the future of mental health and Texans Care for Children.

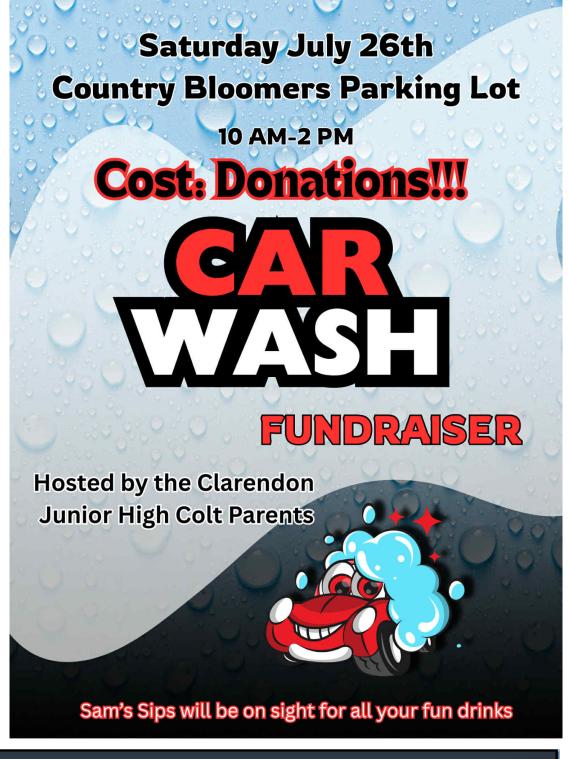
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### FCIC debunks scam warnings

You may have seen pictures shown in social media posts appear or videos on social media posts of to be standard industry stickers used people peeling off tap-to-pay decals to replace worn or hard to see tapplaced over tap-to-pay portals on gas to-pay terminals. If you notice any

presumably placed by criminals, will report them to the gas station immesteal your credit/debit card data.

Based on conversations with for payment." retail fuel industry partners, the Financial Crimes Intelligence Center credit/debit card skimmers that (FCIC) says Texans should not be allow criminals to gather data from concerned.

lant as criminals become more savvy, pumps, especially when using a paythere are no legitimate instances ment app, remains the safest method. reported where 'tap-to-pay stickers' have been used to steal data," a fuel pump, report it to the Texas said Jeff Roberts, FCIC Intelligence Department of Licensing and Regu-Operations Captain. "The decals lation (TDLR).

stickers or devices that seem to inter-The posts claim the stickers, fere with tap-to-pay transactions, diately and avoid swiping your card

With the continued surge of the magnetic strip when a card is "While we all need to stay vigi- swiped, the tap-to-pay option at fuel

If you suspect tampering at

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#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Traine, the easier it gets to solve									
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